Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (***currently amended***) A Mmethod for ~~the early diagnosis and~~ confirming a diagnosis~~, for the prognosis and the assessment of the severity and for the therapy-accompanying assessment of the course~~ of sepsis ~~and sepsis-like systemic infections and for the estimation of the risk of a sepsis-risk patient through the formation of a sepsis, characterized in that~~ said method comprising determining the ~~presence and/or~~ amount of anti-asialo-G_{M1} antibodies (anti-AG_{M1} antibodies) ~~and antibodies cross-reacting therewith~~ in ~~a biological fluid~~ blood of a patient in whom sepsis-associated symptoms are present ~~or sepsis risk patient are determined and conclusions are drawn from the presence and/or amount thereof with regard to the presence, the expected course, the severity or the success of a therapy of the inflammatory disease or sepsis or with regard to the risk of a sepsis risk patient~~wherein an elevated concentration of anti-asialo-G_{M1} antibodies in said blood compared to a healthy individual is indicative of sepsis.

2. (***currently amended***) The Mmethod according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said anti-AG_{M1} ~~and/or anti-G_{M1} (auto)~~antibodies of the IgG and/or IgA type are determined.

3. (***cancelled***)

4. (***currently amended***) The Mmethod according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said determining step ~~the determination~~ is carried out with ~~the aid of a ligand-binding assay of the~~an assay type selected from a sandwich assay, ~~type or of the~~ a competitive assay~~type or of~~and an agglutination assay.

5. (***cancelled***)

6. (***currently amended***) The ~~M~~method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~wherein ~~is carried out as part of a multiparameter determination, in which~~ at least one further ~~inflammation or infection~~ sepsis parameter is simultaneously determined ~~and in which a measured result in the form of a set of at least two measured parameters is obtained, which result is evaluated for the fine diagnosis of sepsis~~.

7. (***currently amended***) The ~~M~~method according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that, in addition to the anti-ganglioside autoantibodies,~~ wherein at least one further parameter ~~which~~ is ~~selected from the group consisting of the proteins~~ procalcitonin, ~~CA 125, CA 19-9, S100B, S100A proteins, LASP-1, soluble cytokeratin fragments, in particular CYFRA 21, TPS and/or soluble cytokeratin-1 fragments (sCY1F), the peptides inflammin and CHP, peptide prohormones, glycine N-acyltransferase (GNAT), carbamoylphosphate synthetase 1 (CPS 1) and the C-reactive protein (CRP) or fragments thereof is determined as part of the multiparameter determination~~.

8-13. (***cancelled***)